

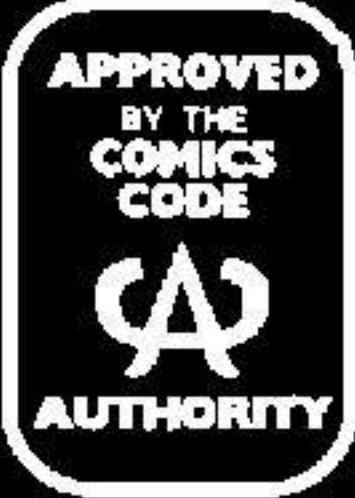
Archie
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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL

SONIC



THE HEDG

THE UNTHINKABLE
HAPPENS



SEGA®



Spaz



EGGMAN EMPIRE

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING

"...THEY NEVER
SAW THIS COMING."

I SAY HE'S
BEEN GONE TOO
LONG. WE NEED
TO GO OUT AND
LOOK FOR ESPIO.*

*WE SAW WHAT
HAPPENED TO HIM
LAST MONTH

I'M SURE HE'S FINE.
YOU KNOW HE'D BE MAD
AT US IF WE DID GO
LOOKING.

I DON'T
WANT TO
INSULT
HIM.

I KNOW HE'S
TALENTED.

BUT I CAN'T
SHAKE THE
FEELING THAT
SOMETHING
BAD HAS
HAPPENED...

NEVER DOUBT
A GUARDIAN'S
INTUITION. YOU AND
I CAN GO OUT TO
LOOK FOR
ESPIO.

YOU'D
DO THAT,
ROUGE?



I GET THE FEELING HE'S KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, THAT'S ALL.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NICOLE? YOU'RE RUNNING REALLY SLOW.

I BELIEVE I'M FINE. I WILL RUN A DIAGNOSTIC NOW.

GOOD IDEA. WE DON'T KNOW IF SNIVELY DID ANYTHING TO SABOTAGE US BEFORE HE LEFT.* THANKS, ROTOR.

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH FEW WEEKS FOR YOU, BUDDY. FIONA LEAVING** ...TOMMY...Y'KNOW.*** AND THEN YOU AND SONIC HAVE BEEN KIND OF AT ODDS...

**HEARTS WERE BROKEN IN S# 172.

SURE THING, TAILS. SPEAKING OF RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS ON YOURSELF...

*BACK IN S# 162.

***THE TRAGEDY HAPPENED IN S# 169.

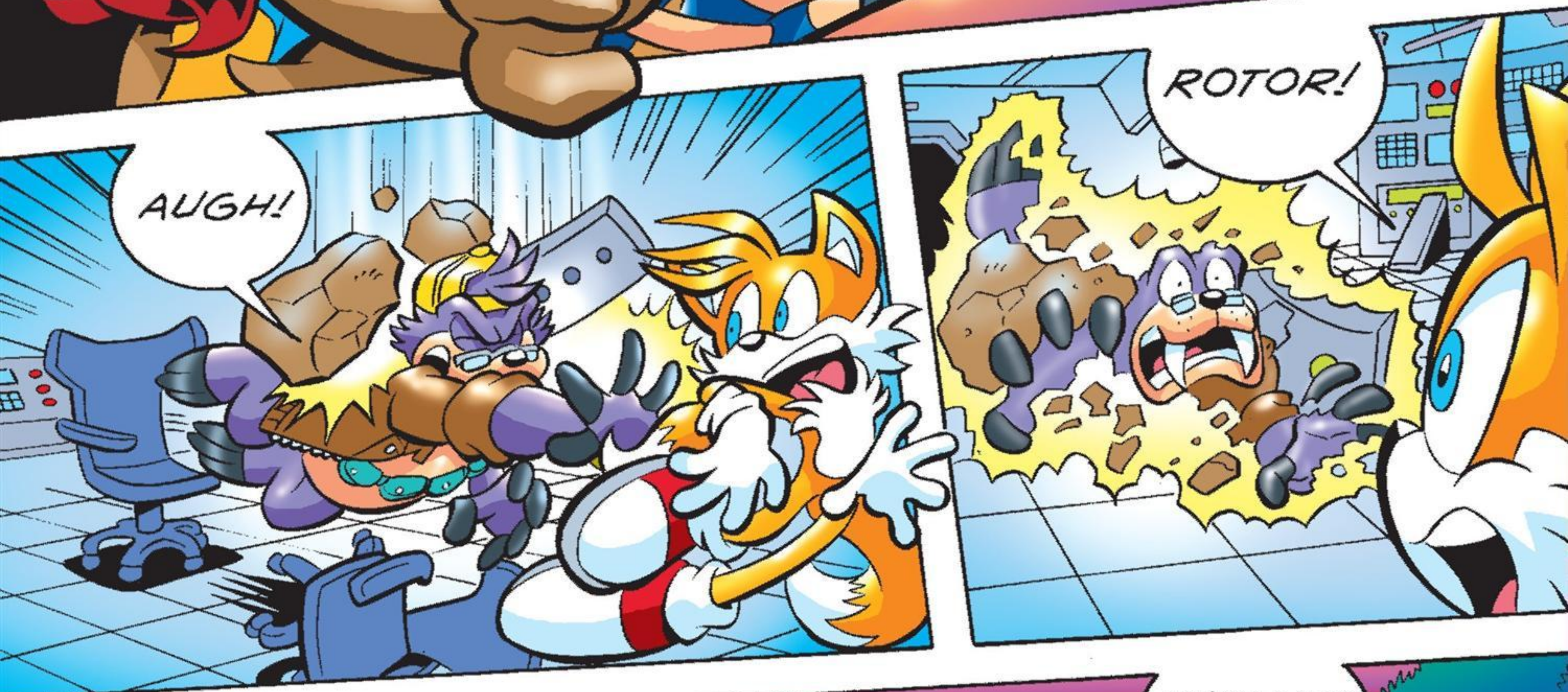
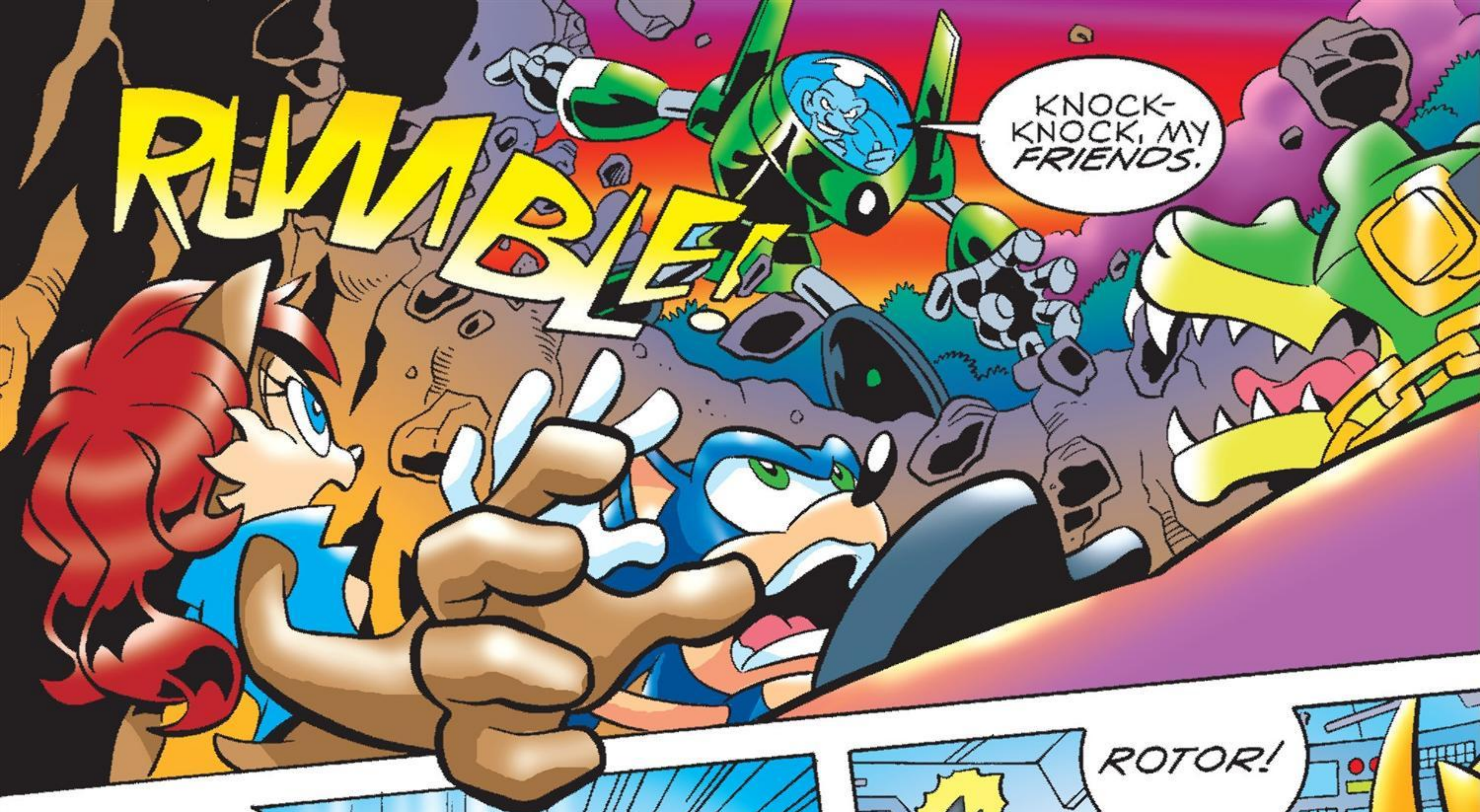
I'LL ADMIT IT'S BEEN HARD TO TAKE. IT'S BEEN HARD TO PROVE MYSELF AS A FREEDOM FIGHTER. AND HARDER STILL TO FAIL TO PROTECT THEM...

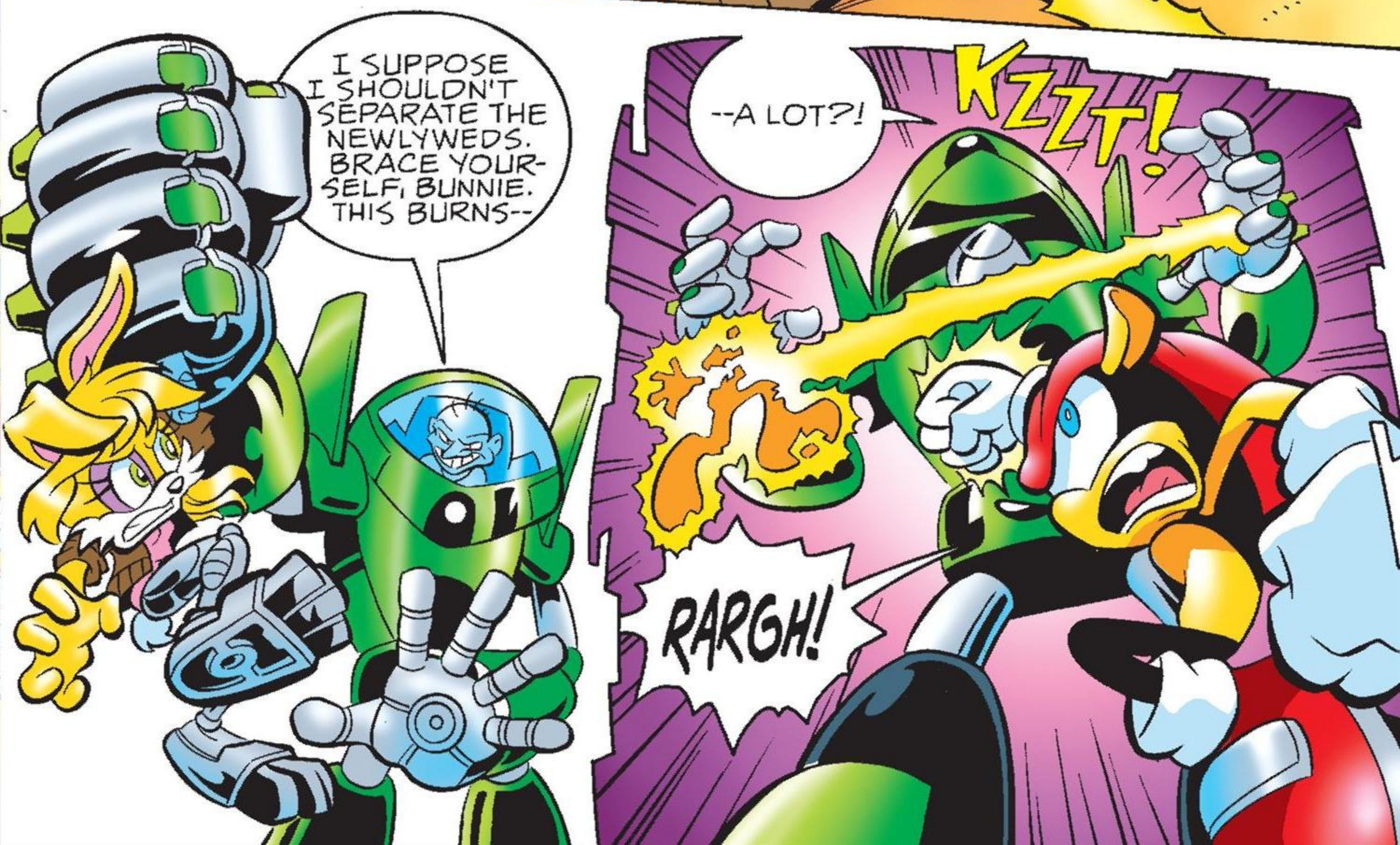
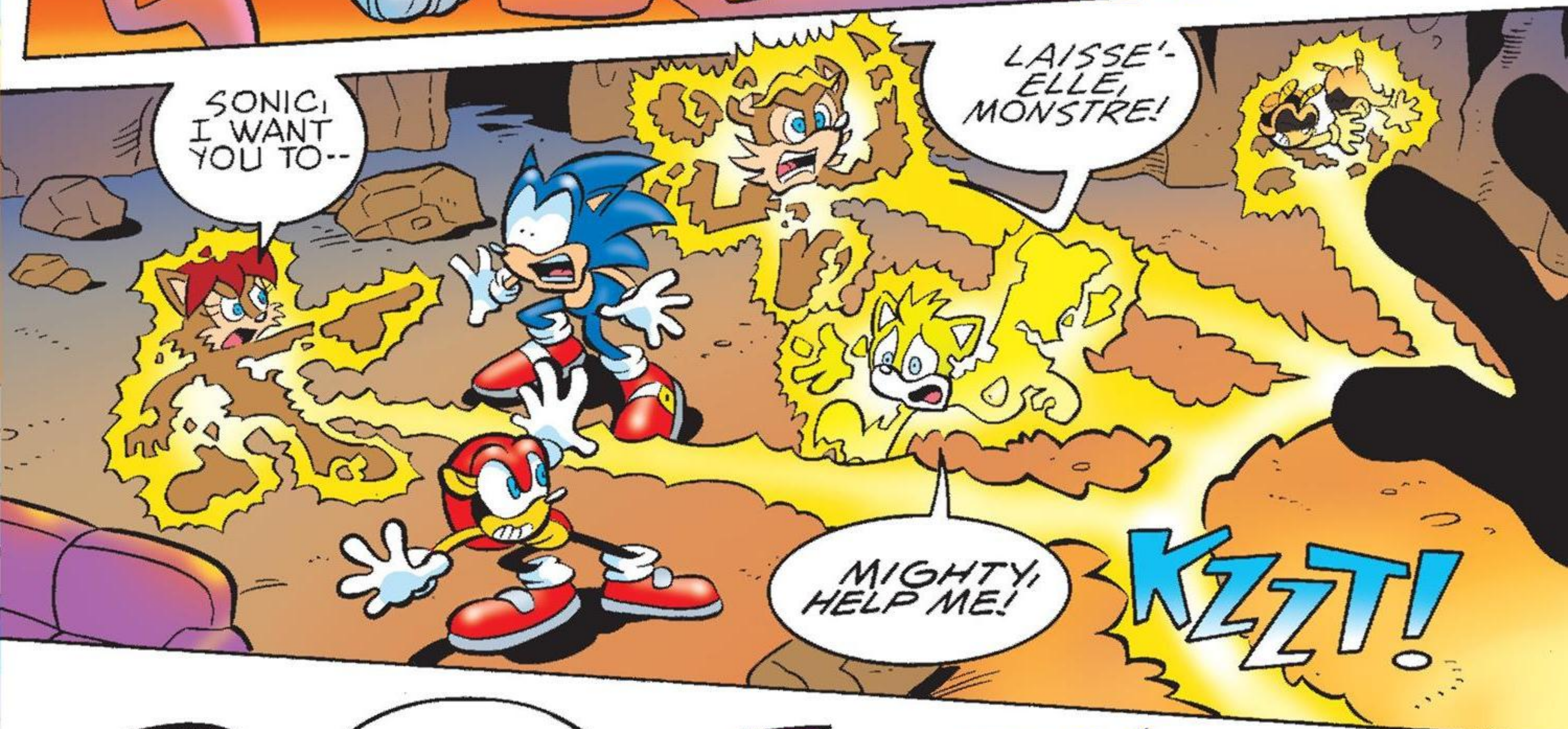
TAILS, YOU DIDN'T FAIL...

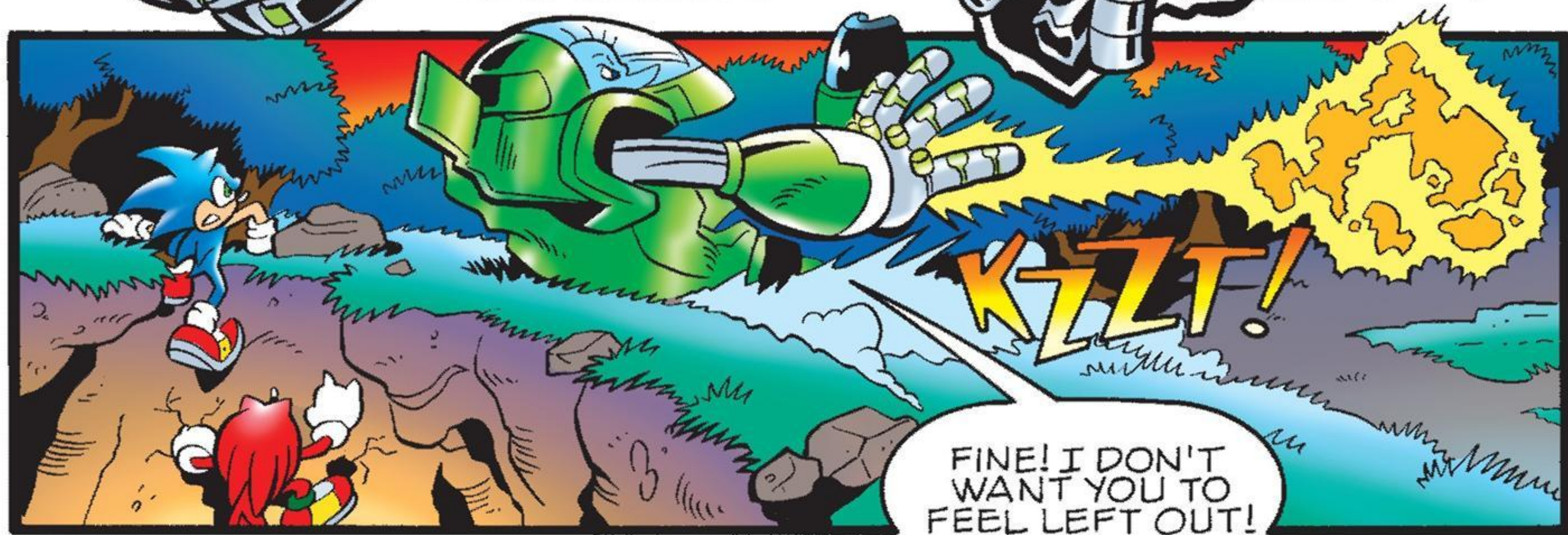
AND NEVERMIND SONIC. I FINALLY HAVE MY FAMILY BACK, AND I STILL HAVE ALL MY FRIENDS NEAR ME! I'LL BE FINE!

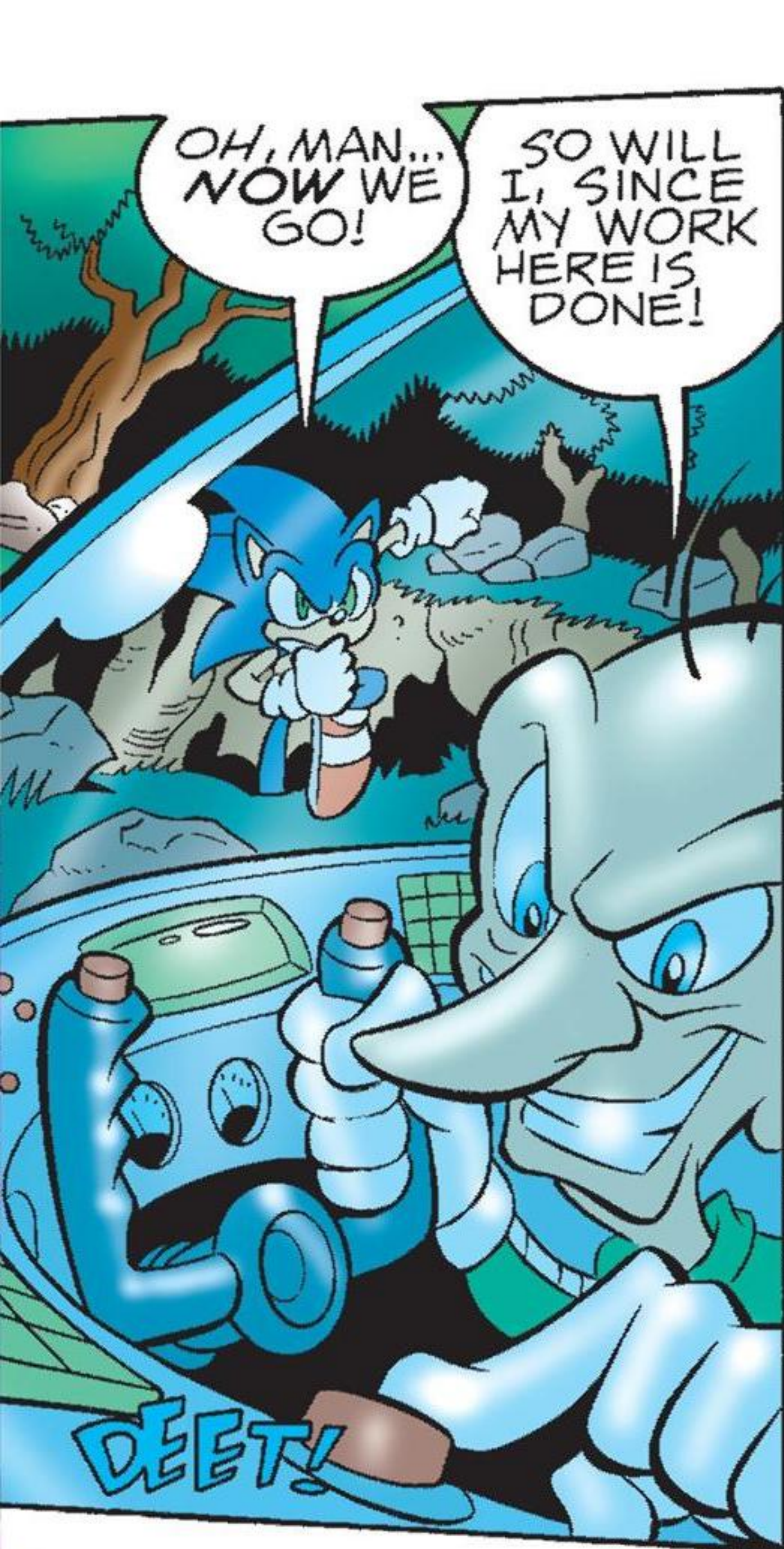
IF YOU SAY SO!

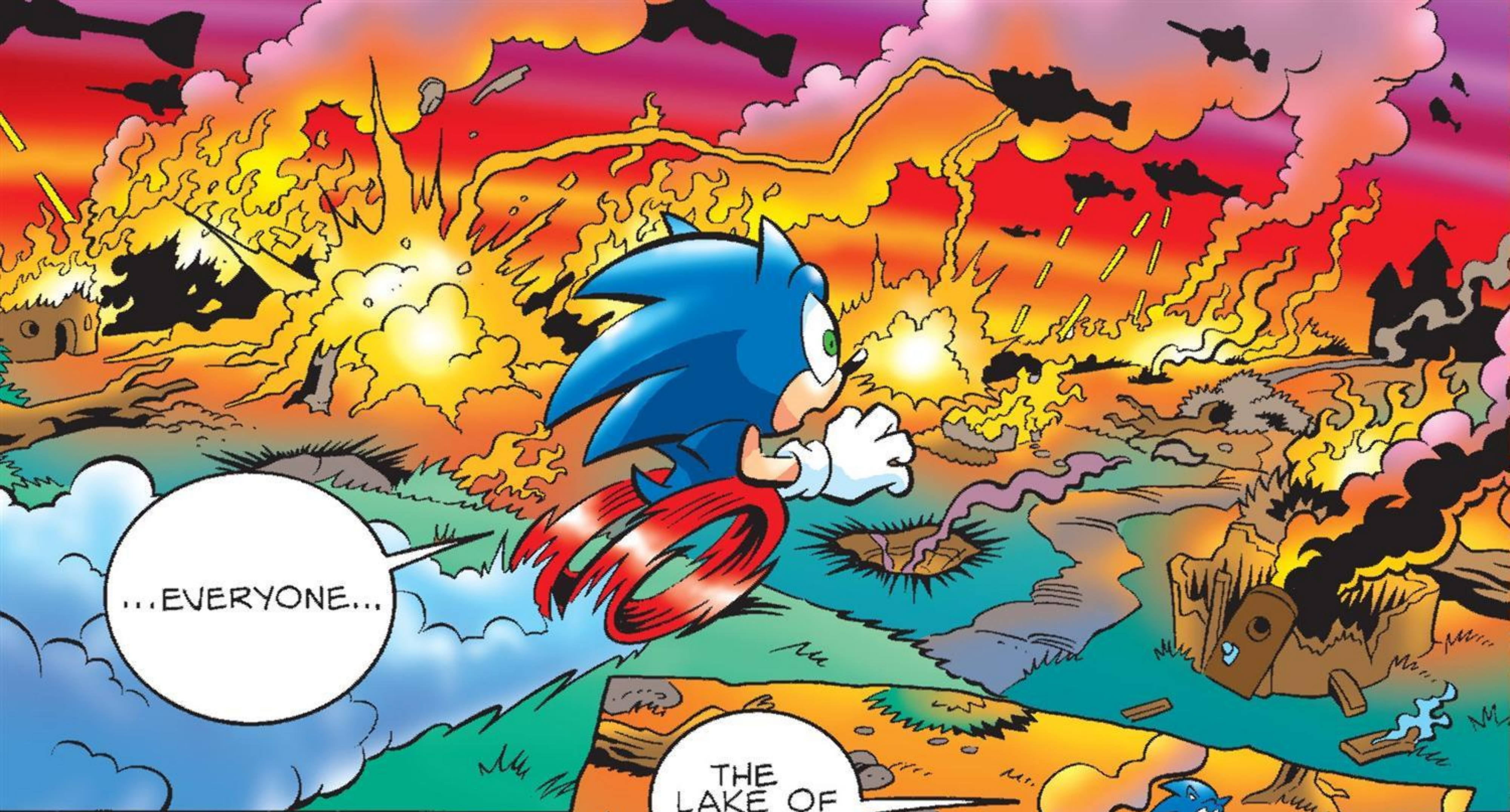
DIAGNOSTIC COMPLETE. SYSTEM COMPROMISED! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!



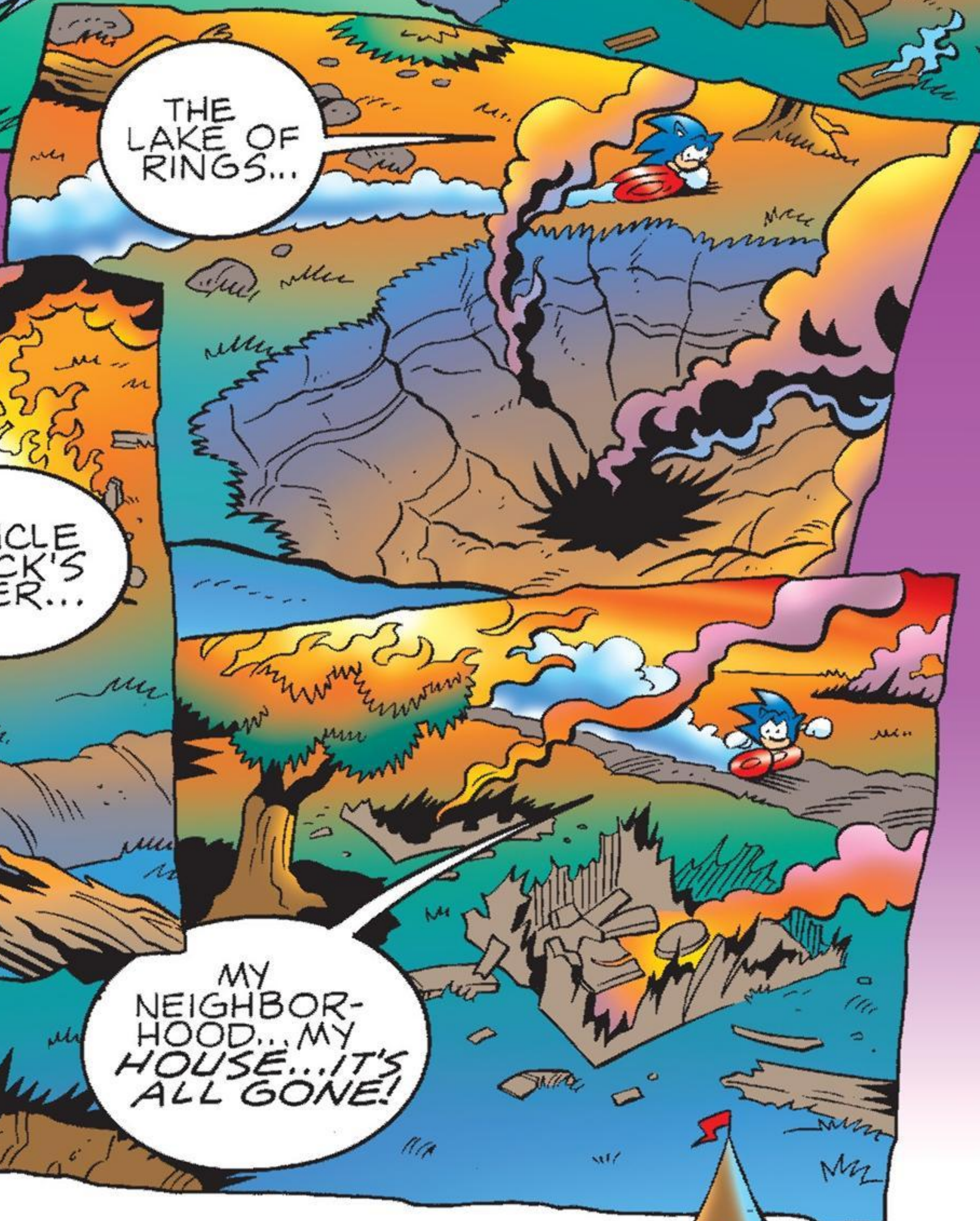








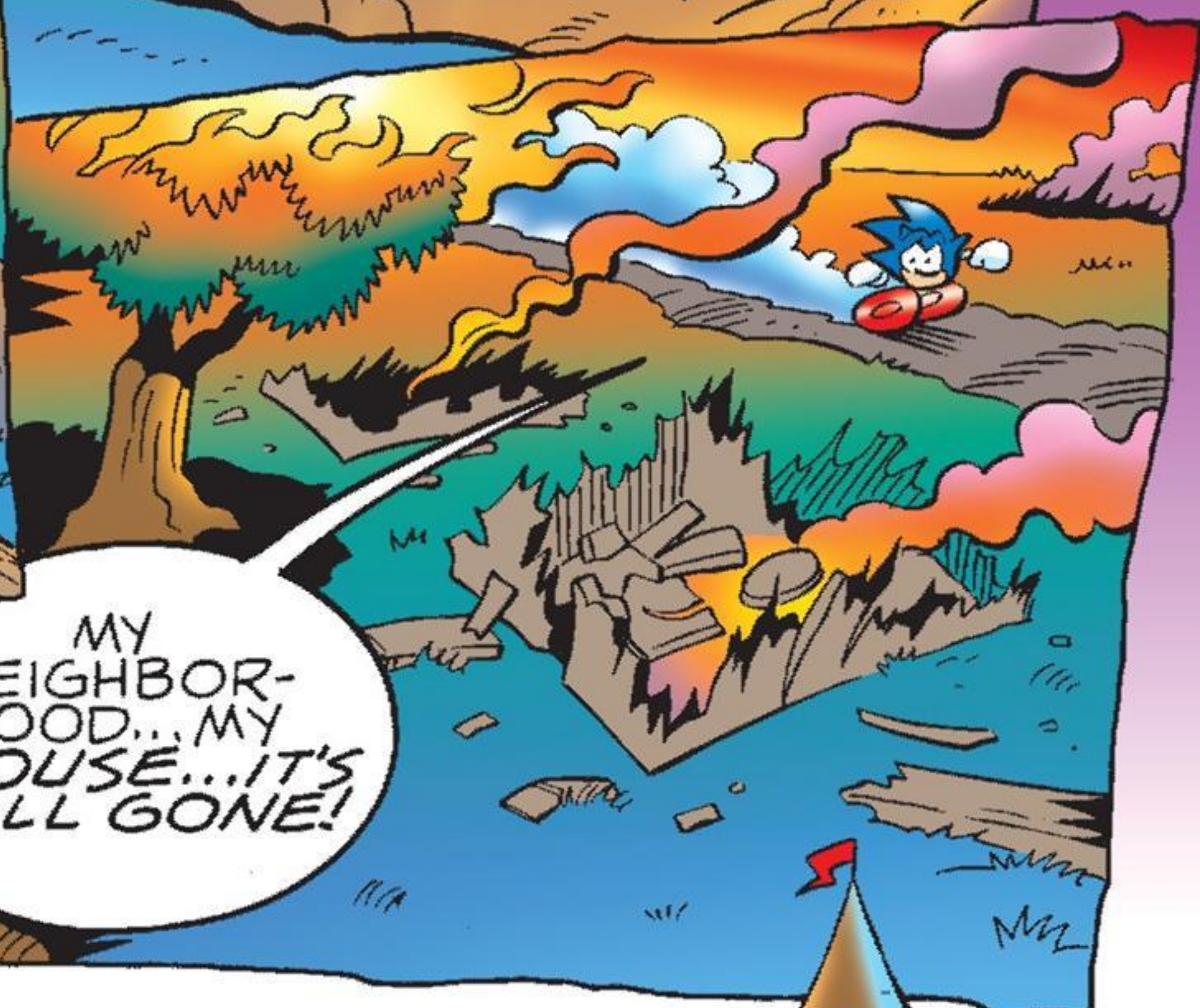
...EVERYONE...



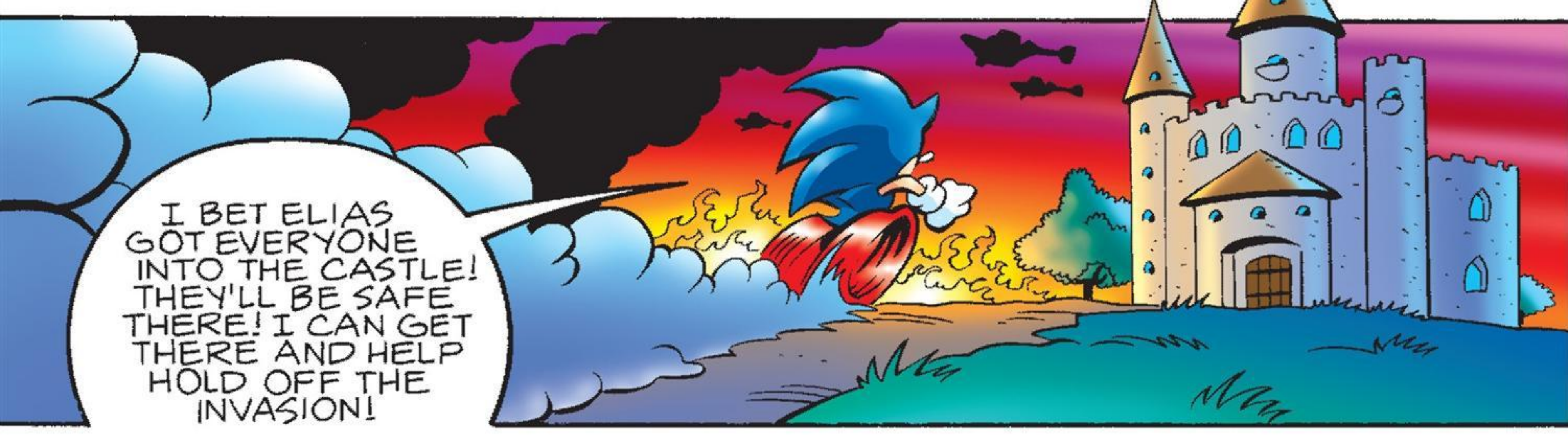
THE LAKE OF RINGS...



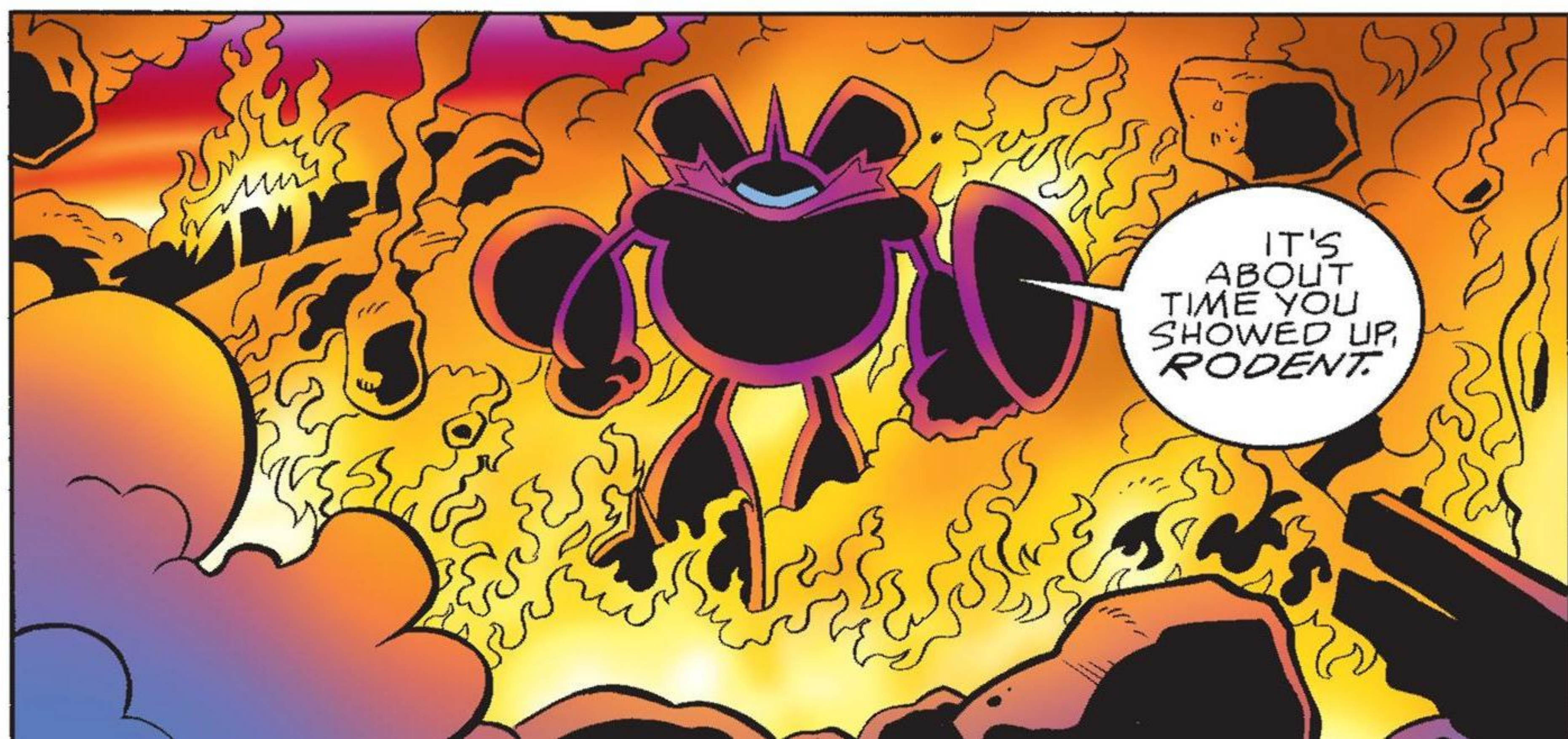
...UNCLE CHUCK'S DINER...



MY NEIGHBORHOOD... MY HOUSE... IT'S ALL GONE!



I BET ELIAS GOT EVERYONE INTO THE CASTLE! THEY'LL BE SAFE THERE! I CAN GET THERE AND HELP HOLD OFF THE INVASION!



ROBOTNIK...
EVERYONE
I EVER
CARED FOR...
MY FAMILY...
FRIENDS...
YOU...
THEY'RE...

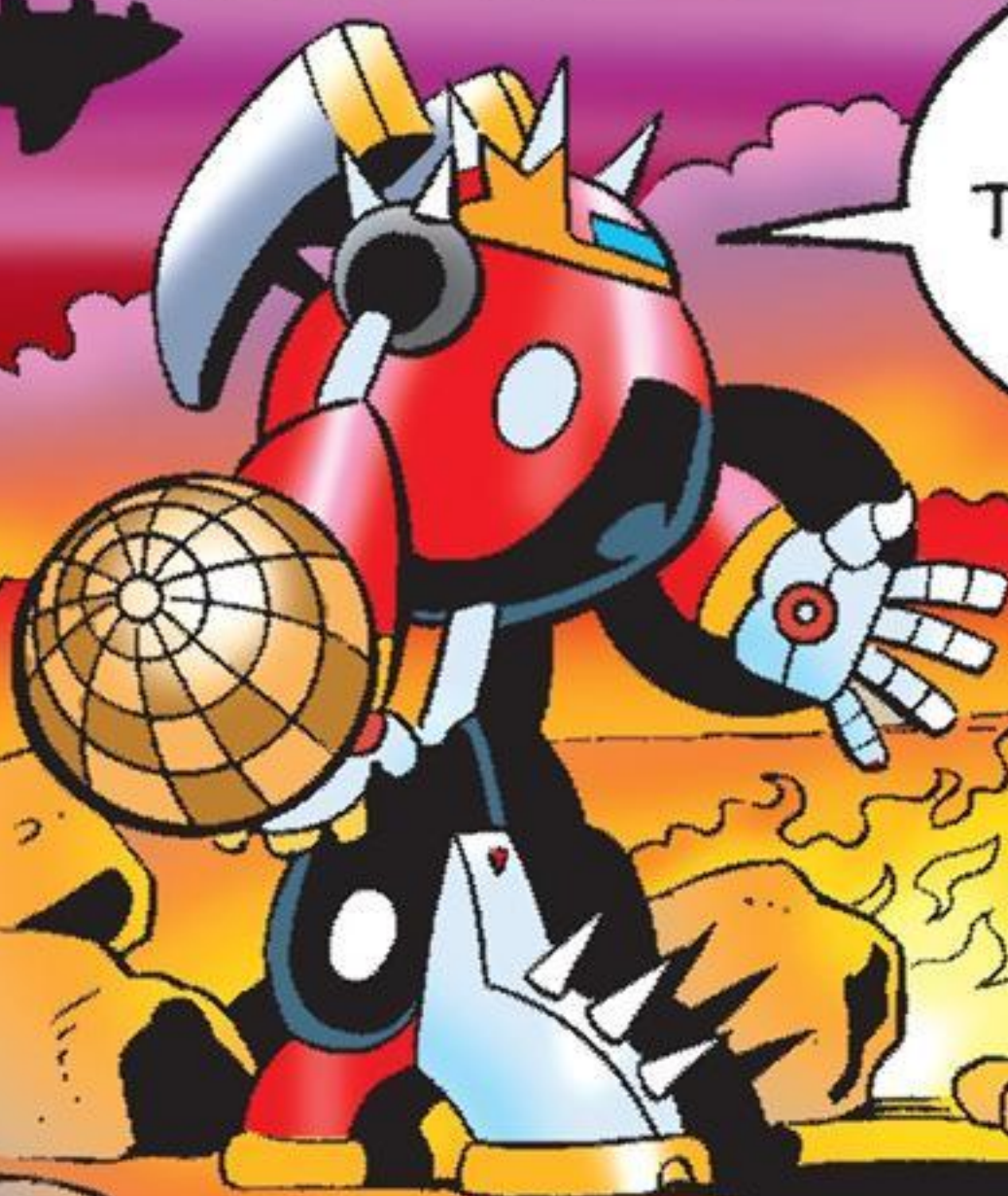


CAPTURED,
SONIC. SNIVELY
AND I USED AN
ENHANCED TELE-
PORTING BEAM,
MUCH LIKE WHAT
I USED ON
MAMMOTH
MOGUL AND
HIS CROWD.*



*BACK IN S# 164

THEY'VE BEEN
TRANSPORTED
TO MY EGG GRAPES.
THERE IT WILL
ALL END.

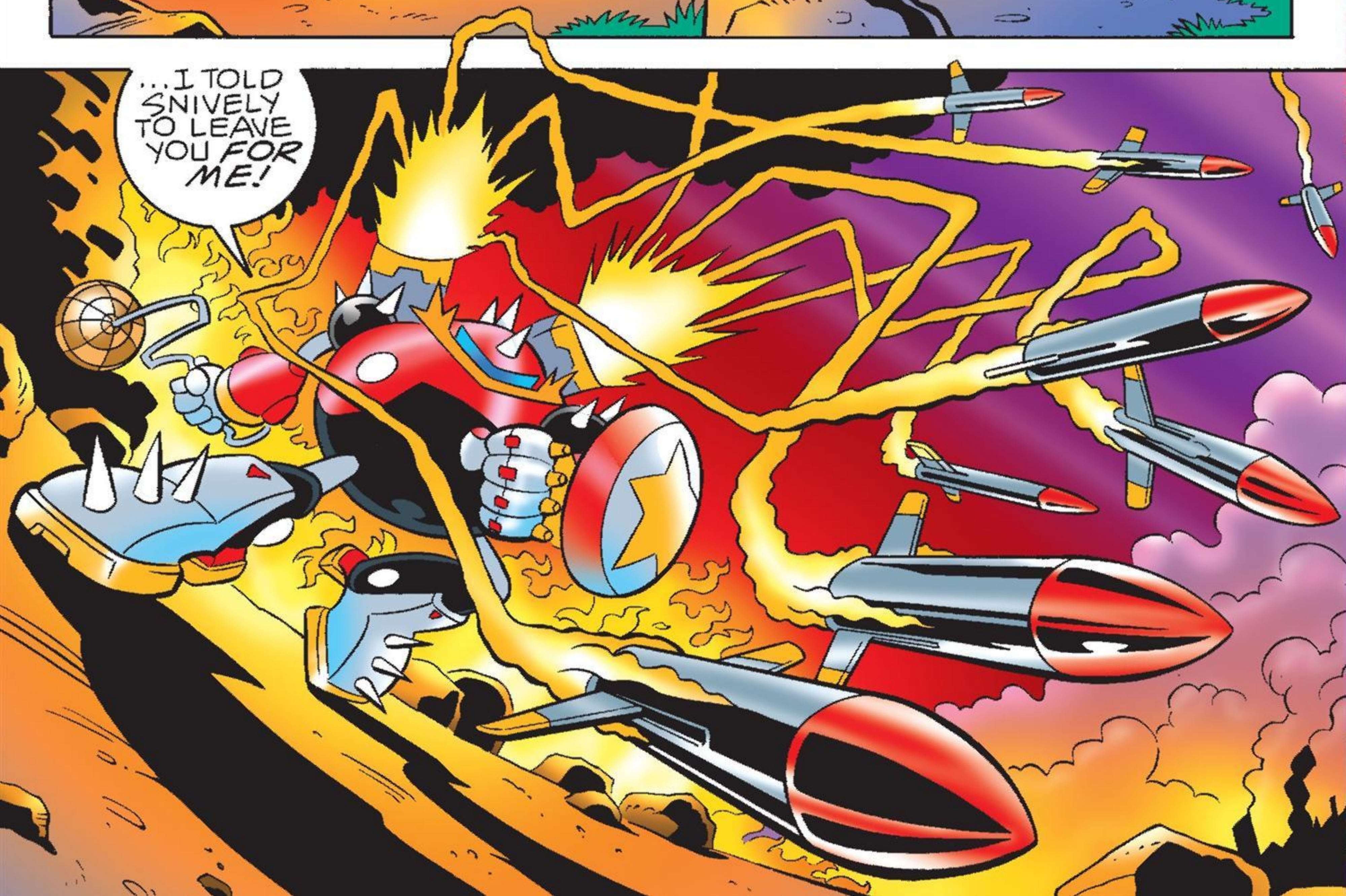


NICE TRY,
DOC. SNIVELY
DIDN'T ZAP ME.
I GET TO SAVE
THE DAY LIKE
ALWAYS.

SILLY
BOY...



...I TOLD
SNIVELY
TO LEAVE
YOU FOR
ME!





I'M SURPRISED
YOU RETAIN YOUR
CONFIDENCE AFTER SO
MANY *FAILURES*. OR
DID YOU FORGET
WHAT HAPPENED
TO TOMMY TURTLE
AND SIR CONNERY?

YOU NEVER
DEROBOTICIZED
YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY.
AND YOUR
FATHER IS
STILL A
ROBOT!

OR HOW
ABOUT YOUR
LOVE-LIFE,
EH? SALLY,
MINA, EVEN
FIONA!

SO...

...HOW
COME
YOU'RE
ALL
ALONE?

SHUT
UP!

THAT'S IT?
THAT'S YOUR
WITTY COMEBACK?
PLEASE, SONIC,
I WANT OUR LAST
GAME TO HAVE
SOME MERIT.

OOF!
THIS IS A
GAME TO
YOU?!

DING

DING

DING

DING

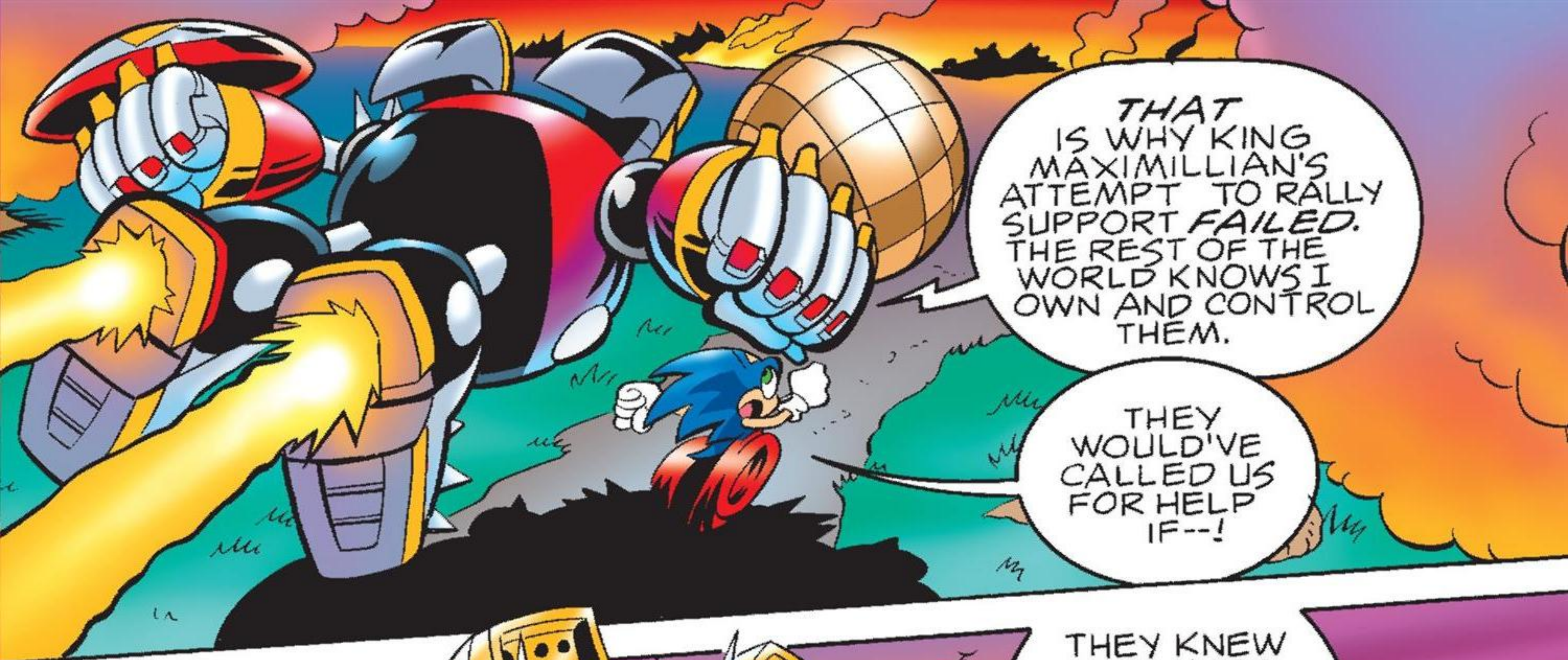
YOU THOUGHT
YOUR PITHY
RESISTANCE
ACTUALLY HAD
SOME KIND OF
TOE-HOLD AGAINST
MY EMPIRE?

THE WORLD FELL TO ME
SO QUICKLY, SO *EASILY*,
THAT I WAS LEFT WITH
NOTHING TO DO! I *ALLOWED*
YOU FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO
EXIST SO THAT I MIGHT
ENTERTAIN MYSELF!

AHH!
LIAR!

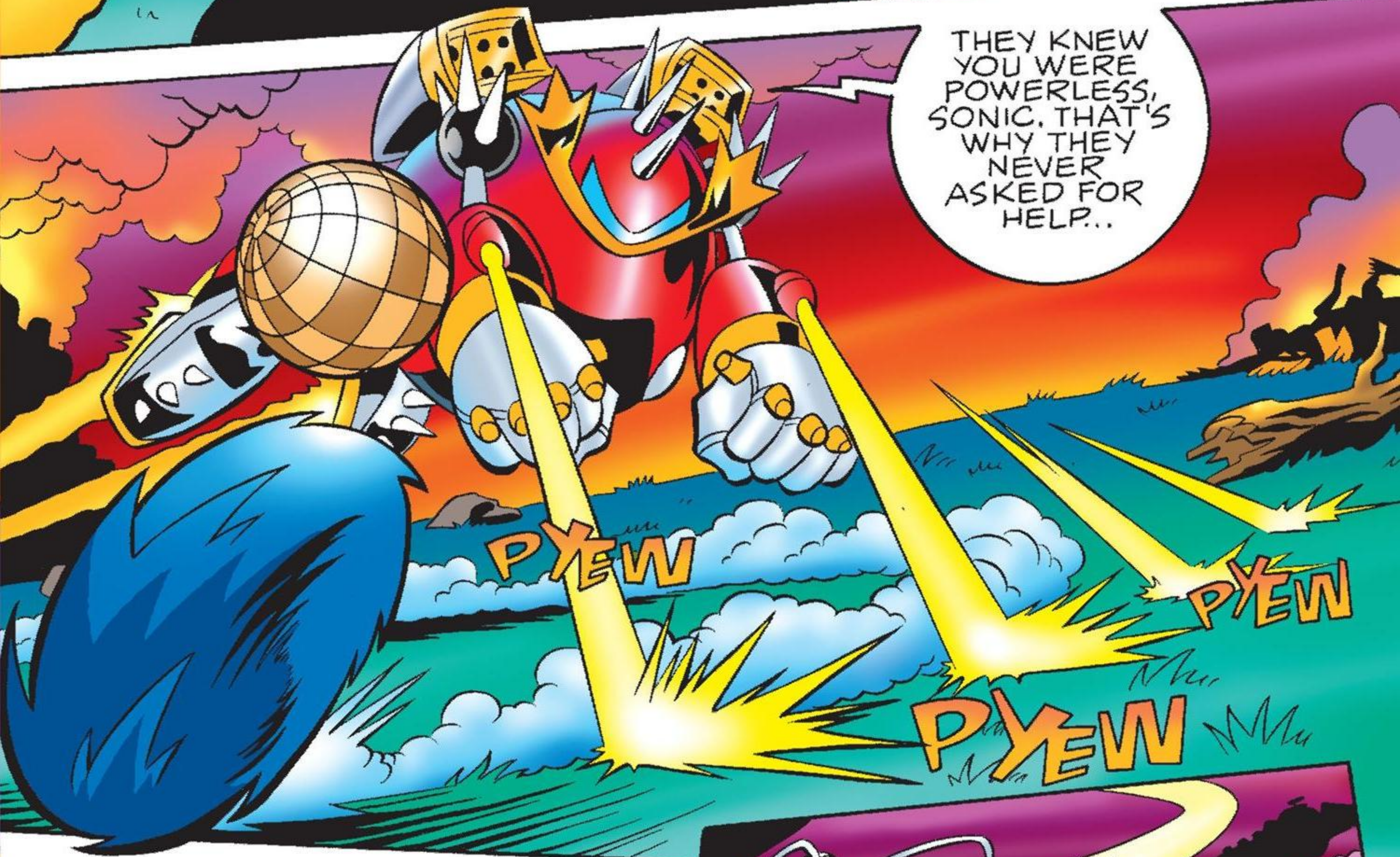
YOU'VE TRIED--
AND *FAILED*--
TO BEAT US IN
THE PAST!

I WILL CONCEDE
YOU ALL HAVE WON
MY LITTLE WAR
GAMES MORE TIMES
THAN NOT. BUT SO
WHAT? IS MOBIUS
ANY MORE FREE
NOW THAN IT WAS
YEARS AGO?

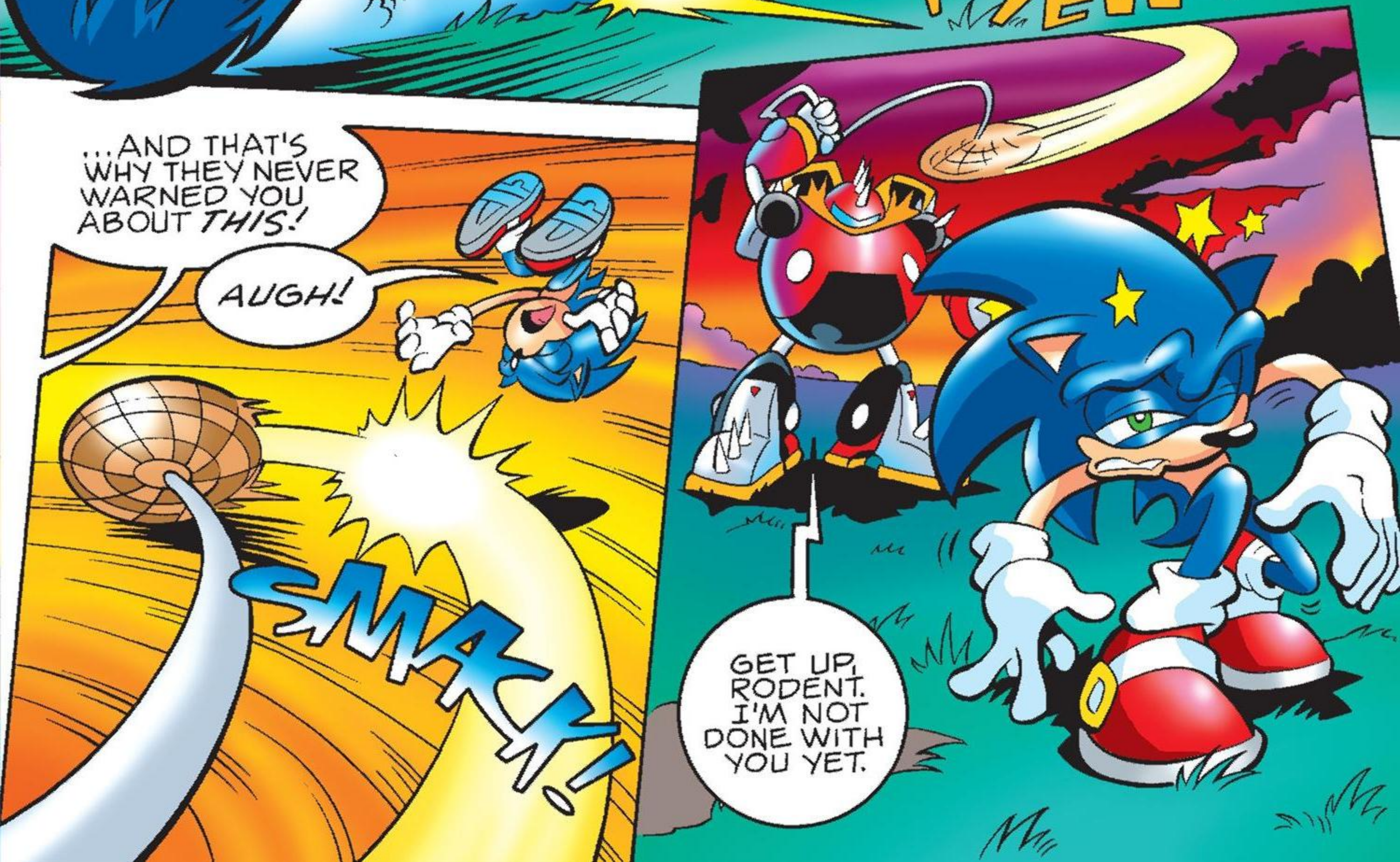


THAT IS WHY KING MAXIMILLIAN'S ATTEMPT TO RALLY SUPPORT *FAILED*. THE REST OF THE WORLD KNOWS I OWN AND CONTROL THEM.

THEY WOULD'VE CALLED US FOR HELP IF--!



THEY KNEW YOU WERE POWERLESS, SONIC. THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER ASKED FOR HELP..



...AND THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER WARNED YOU ABOUT *THIS*!

AUGH!

SMASH!

GET UP, RODENT. I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET.

HAHAHA!
OH, YOUR FUTILE
ACTIONS AMUSE
ME SO! YOU'LL
NEVER WIN
THIS BATTLE,
SONIC. YOU
CAN'T!

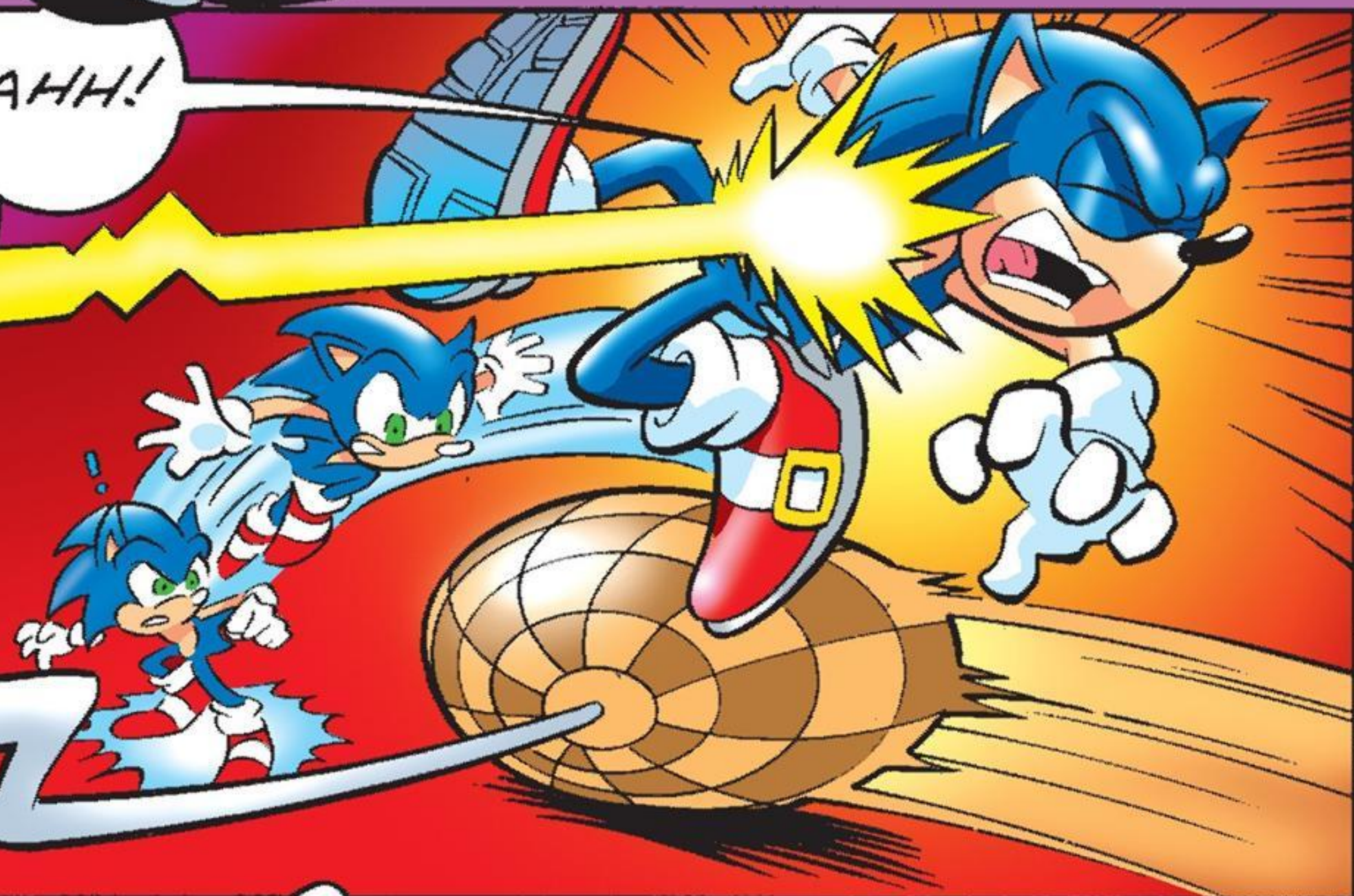
HURF!
KEEP
TALKING
BIG, DOC!
I'M NOT
DONE
YET!



YOU WERE FINISHED
BEFORE THE EGG
FLEET EVEN BEGAN
BOMBARDMENT. THIS
BATTLE SUIT IS SPECIF-
ICALLY DESIGNED TO
MATCH AND OUT-CLASS
YOUR SPEED AND
STRENGTH!

AHH!

ZAP!



I'VE STUDIED YOU
ALL YOUR LIFE,
RODENT. WE'VE
REACHED YOUR
LIMIT!

THE ONLY REASON
YOU CAN TAKE THIS
MUCH PUNISHMENT
IS DUE TO ALL THOSE
MAGIC RINGS YOU ONCE
COLLECTED. WHICH MEANS
I GET TO TOY WITH YOU
LONGER THAN SHOULD
BE REASONABLE!

LIMIT?
LIMIT?!



EGAD! SNIVELY!
TRACK THE HEDGE-
HOG VIA THE EGG
SPY SATELLITES.
WHERE DID HE
GO?

WHOOSH

TRACKING
NOW, SIR. HE'S...
HE'S MOVING A
LOT FASTER
THAN YOU
CALCULATED
HE COULD...

NONSENSE!
JUST GET ME HIS
LOCATION!

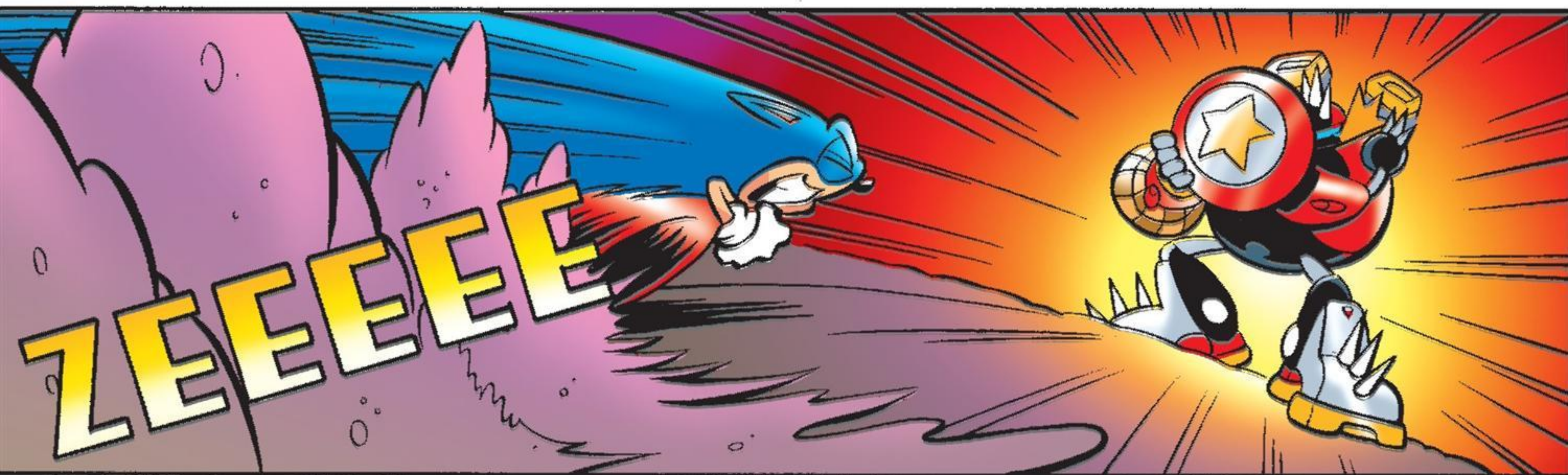
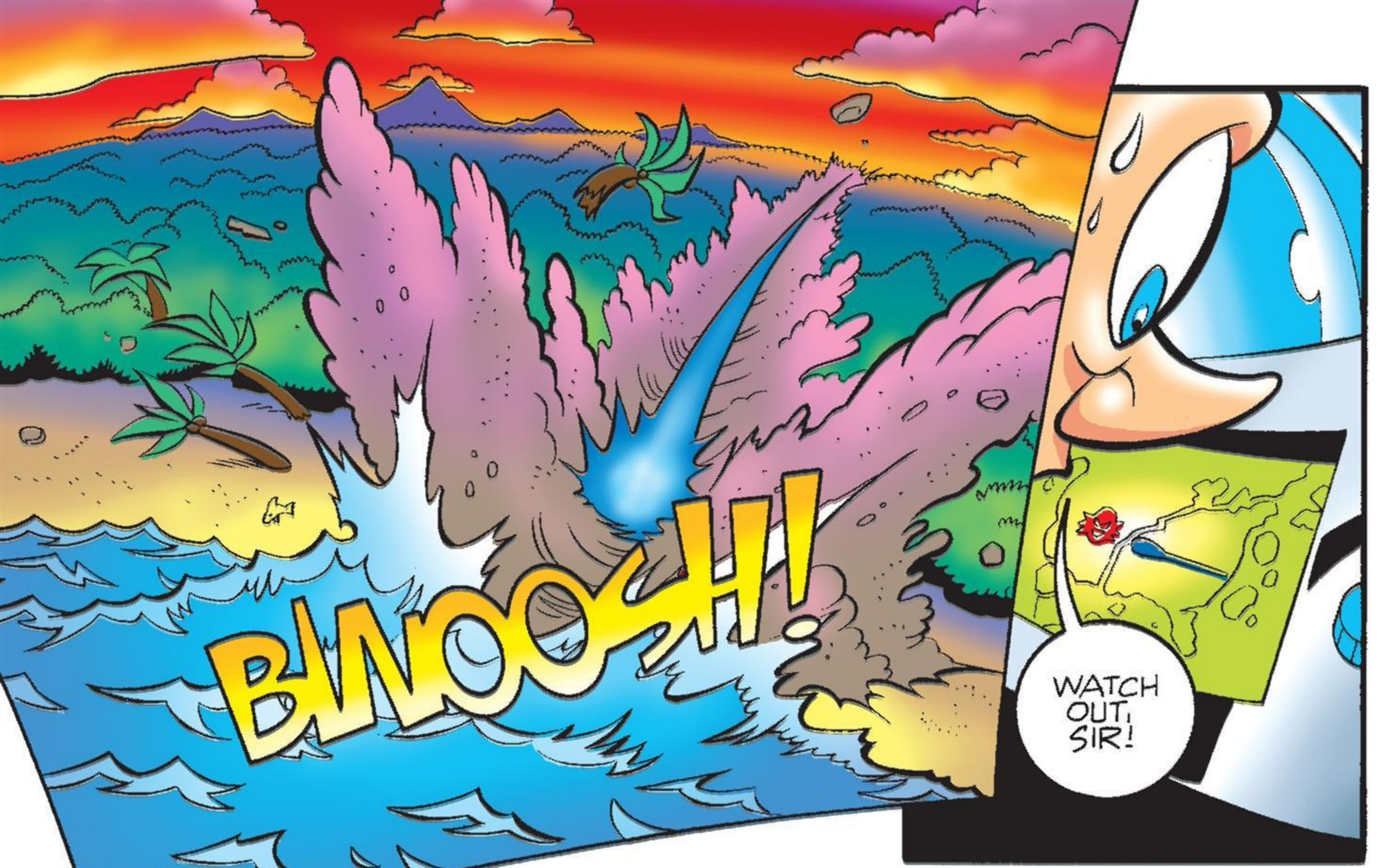
H-HE...!

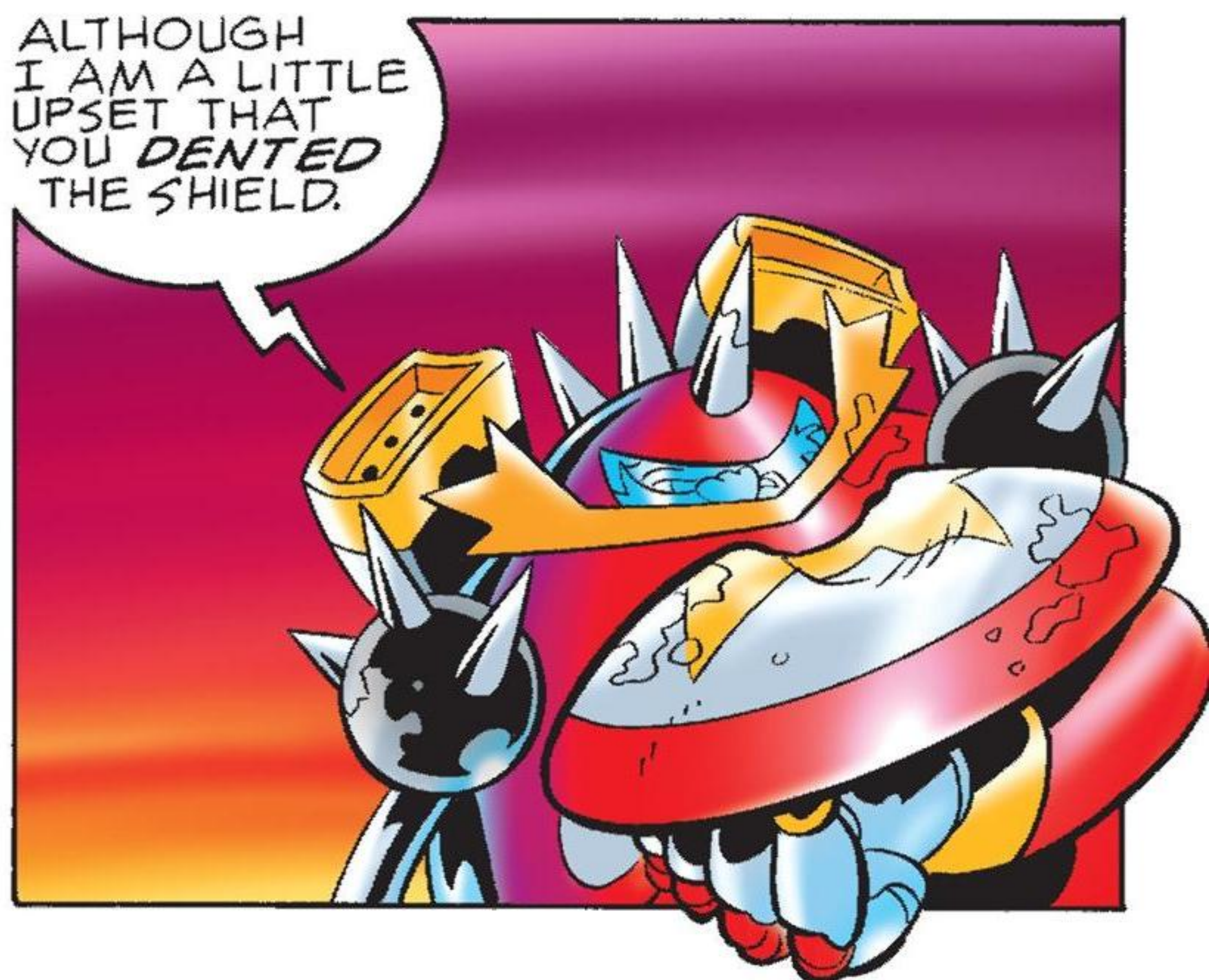
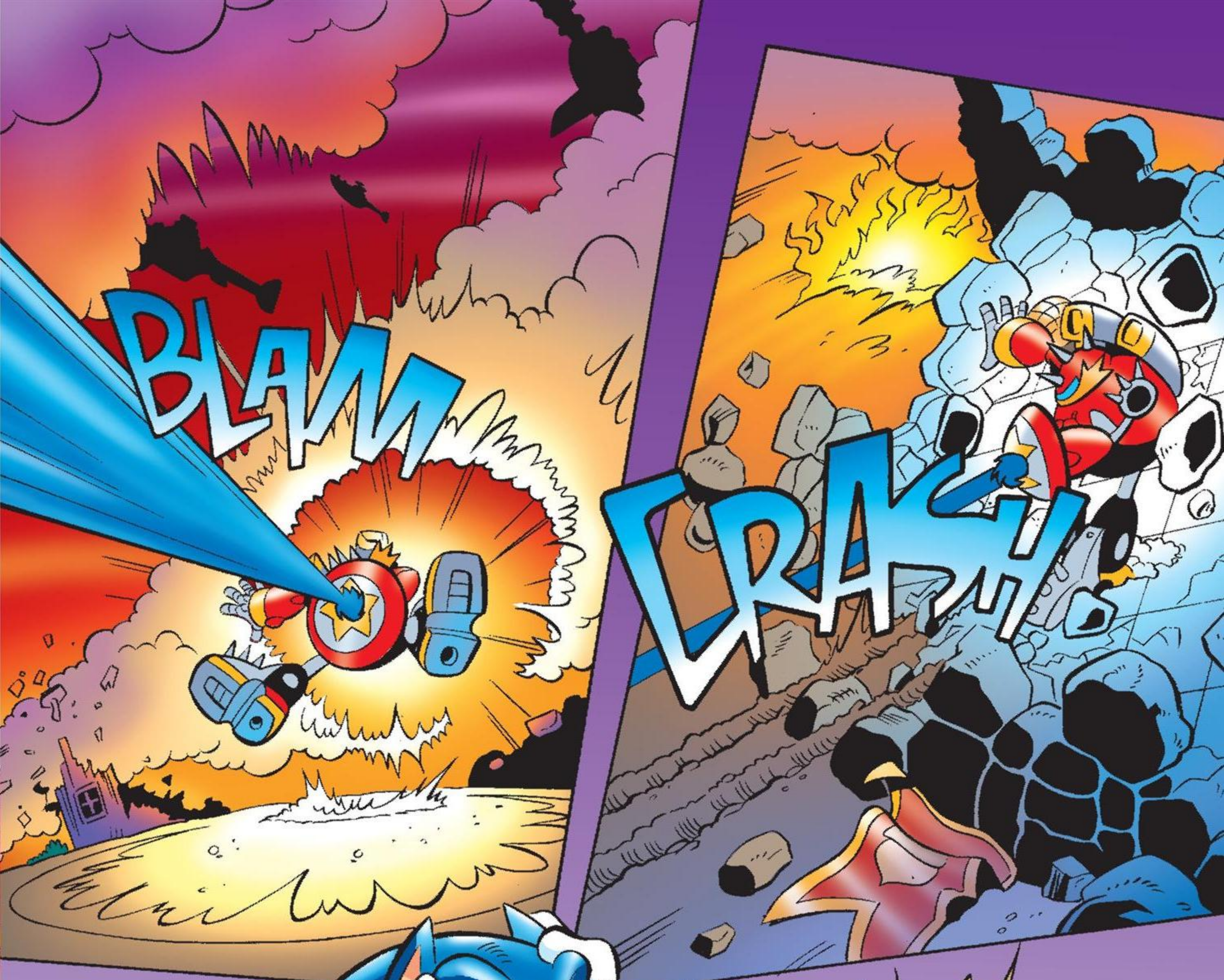
WHERE,
SNIVELY?
WHERE
?!

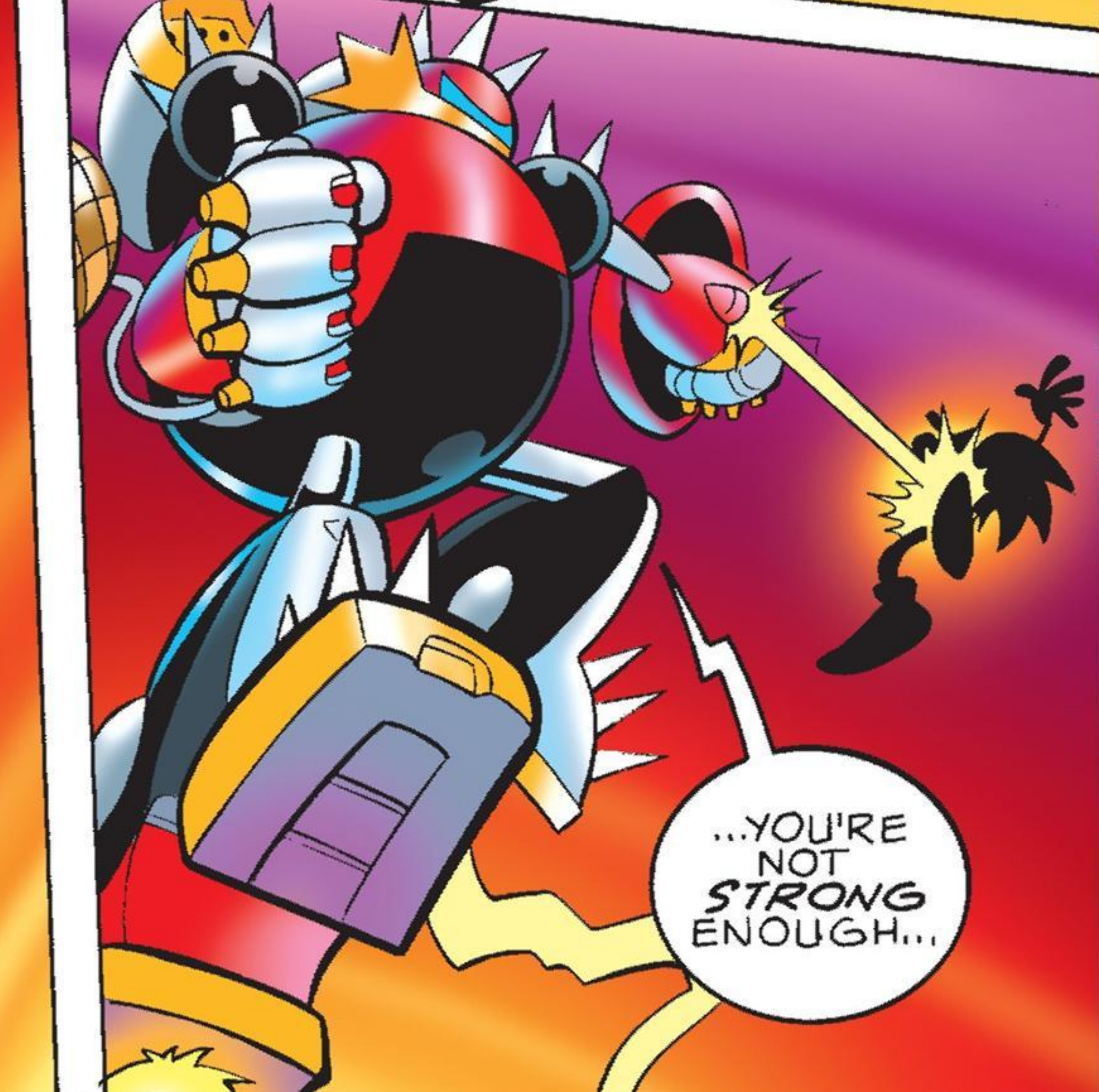
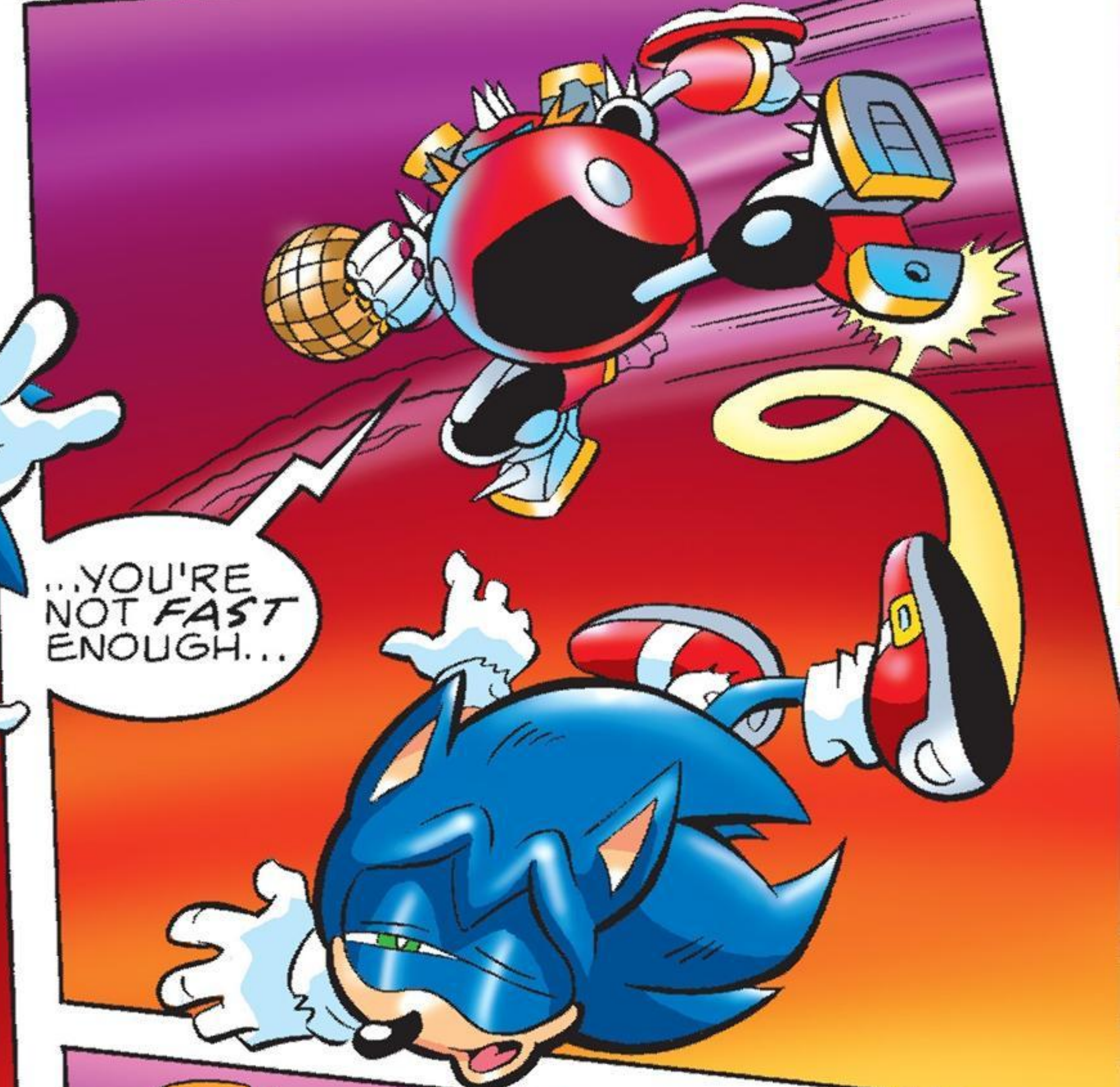
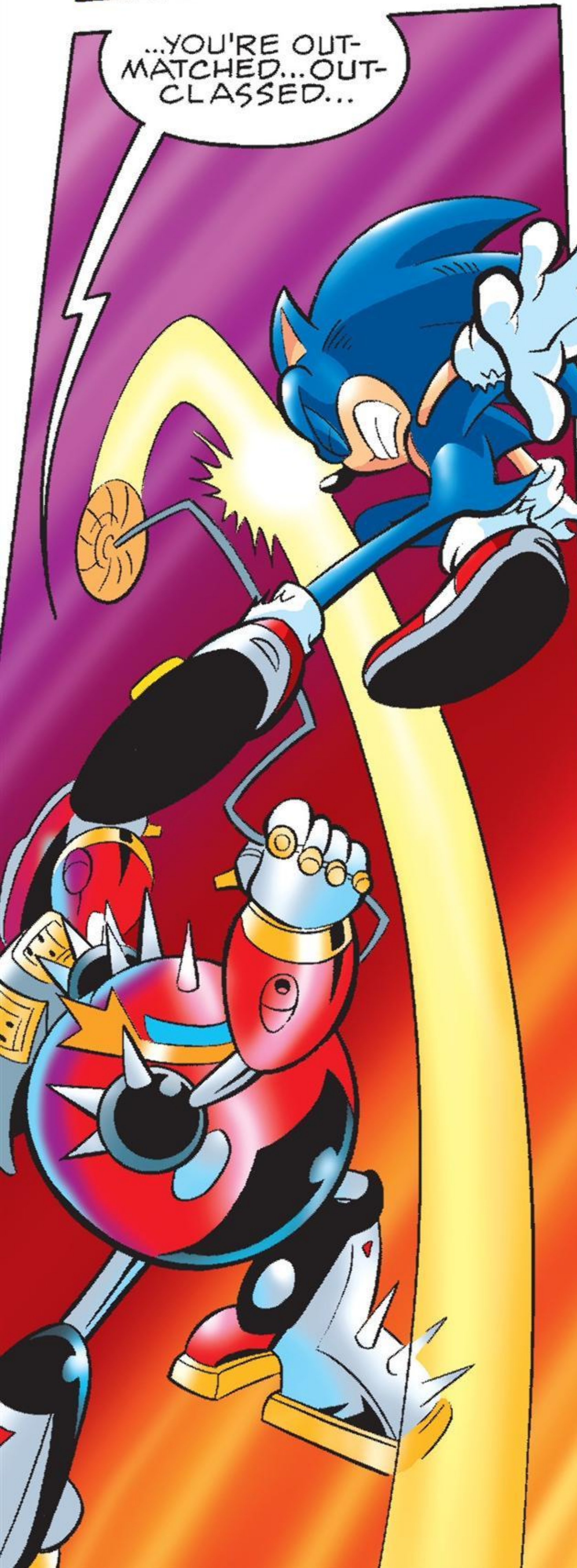
HE'S
ALREADY
ON THE
EAST
COAST!

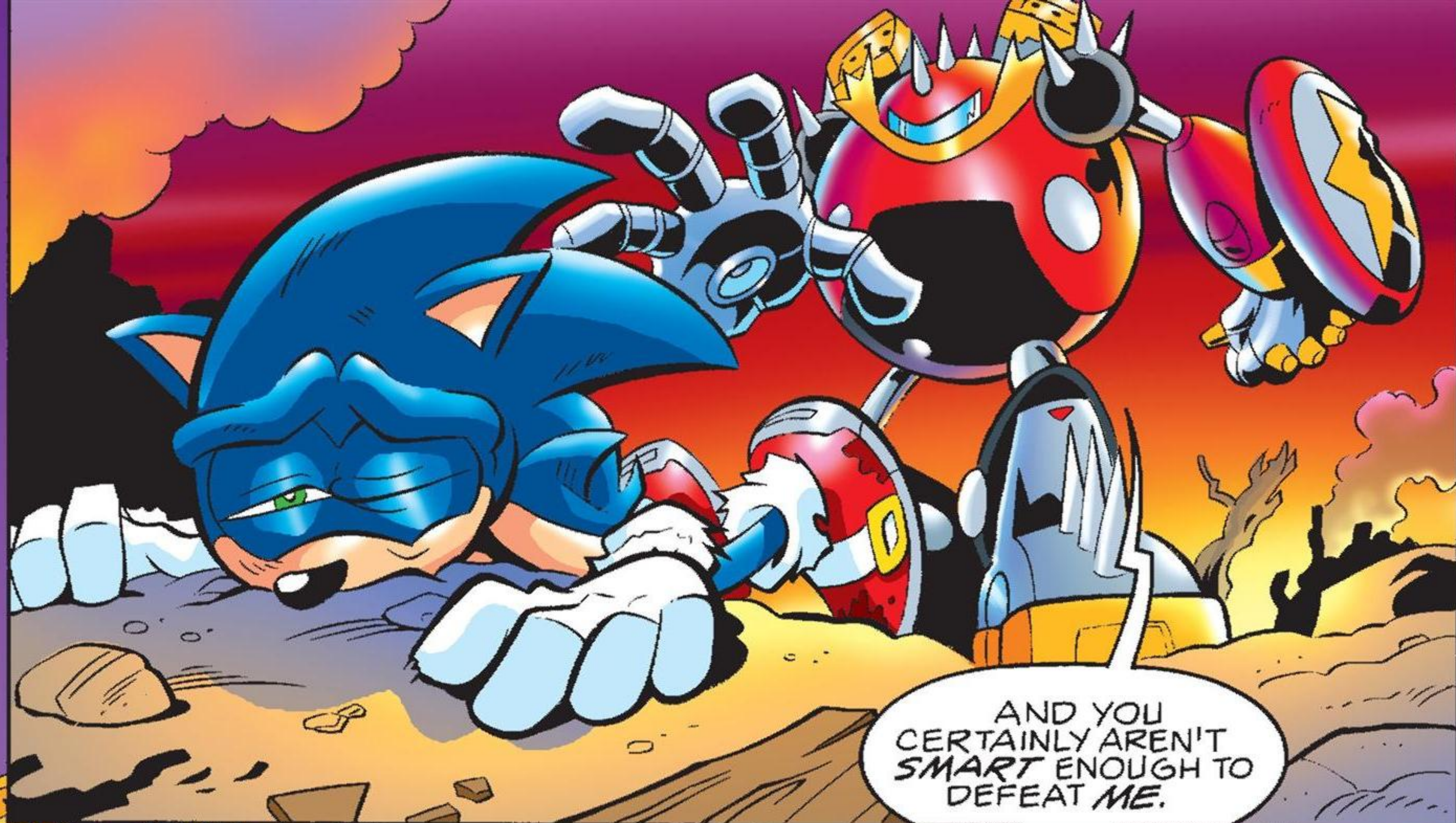
"LIMIT"
?

I'VE
GOT
YOUR
"LIMIT"
RIGHT
HERE!







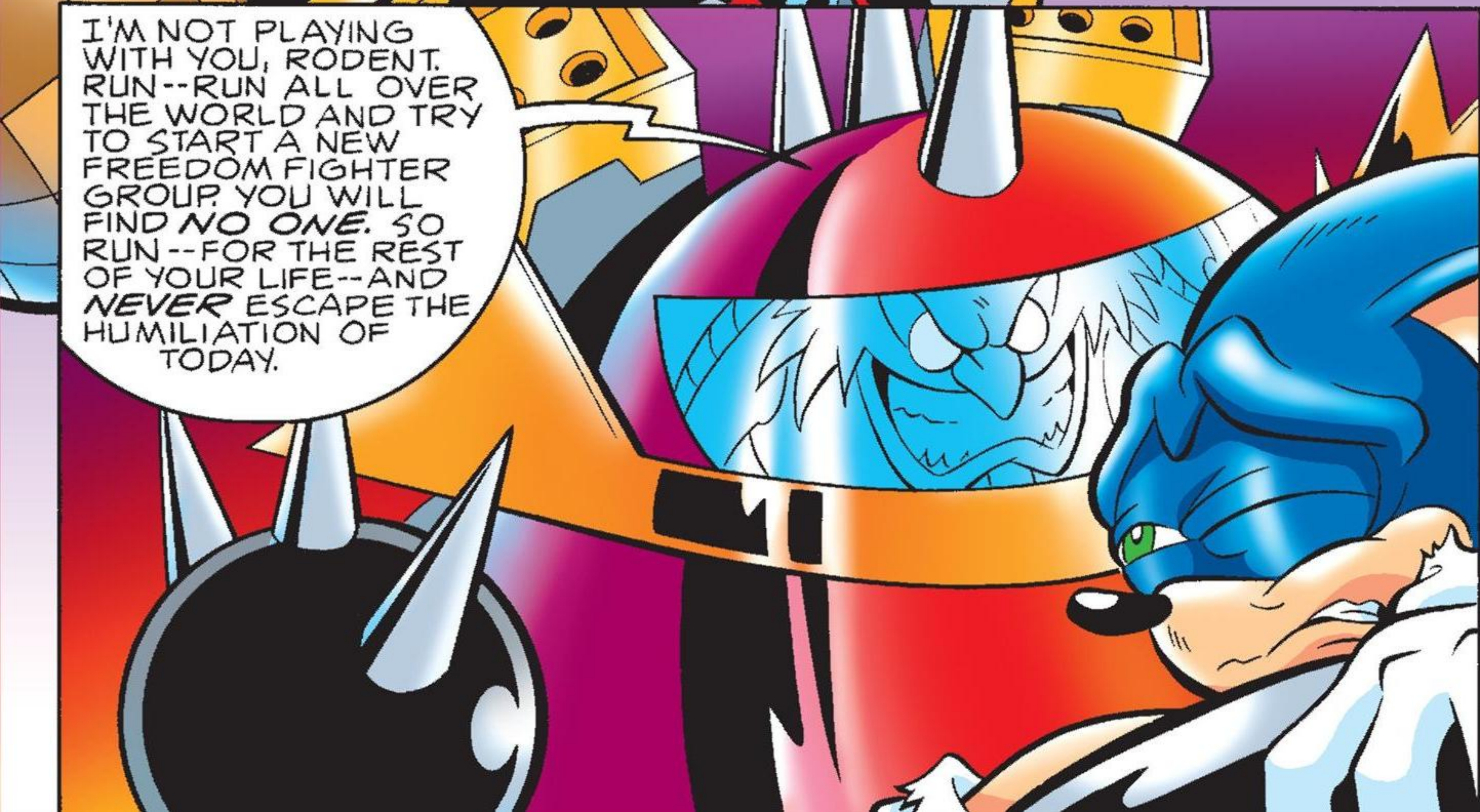


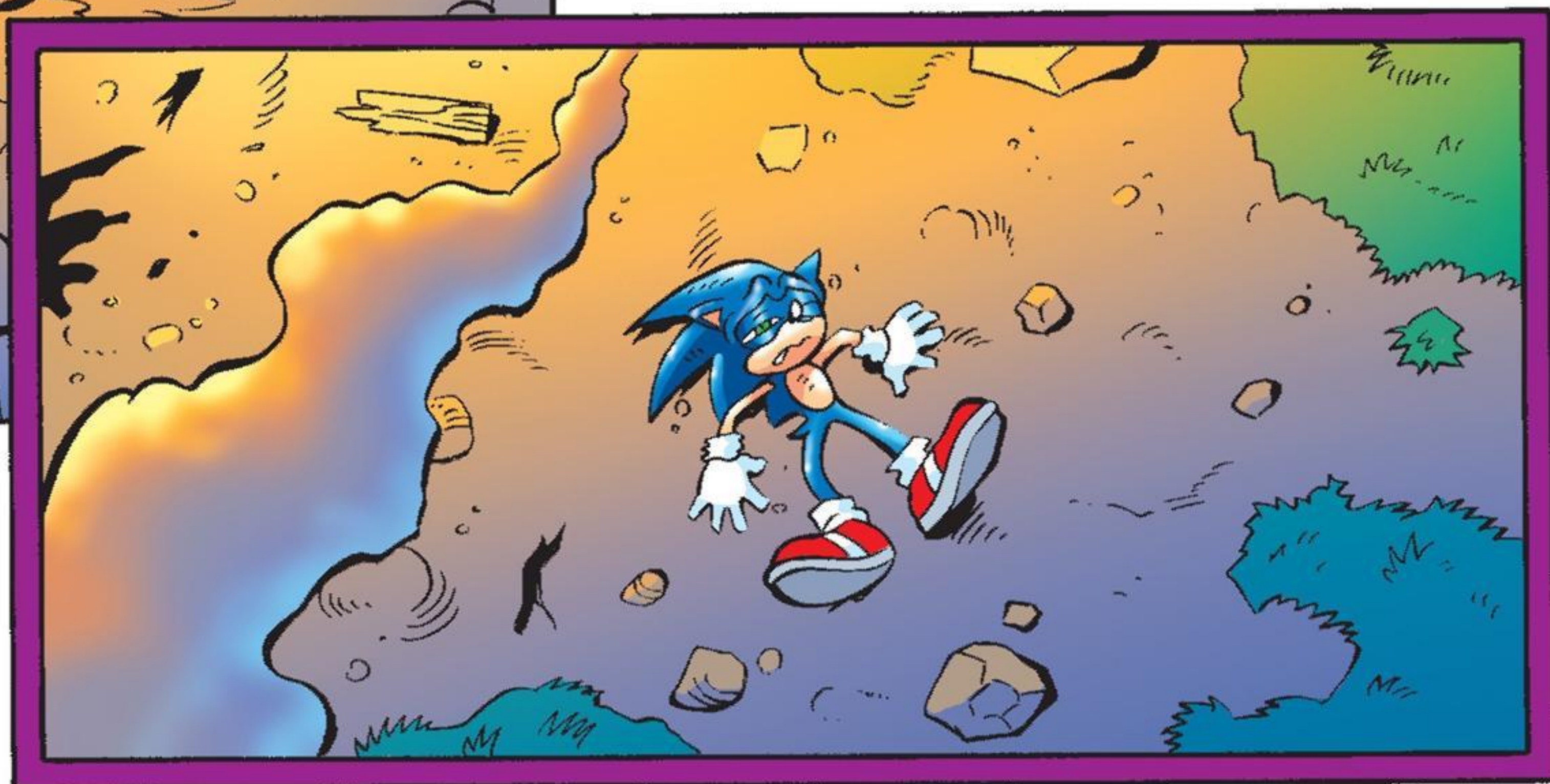
AND YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T **SMART** ENOUGH TO DEFEAT **ME**.

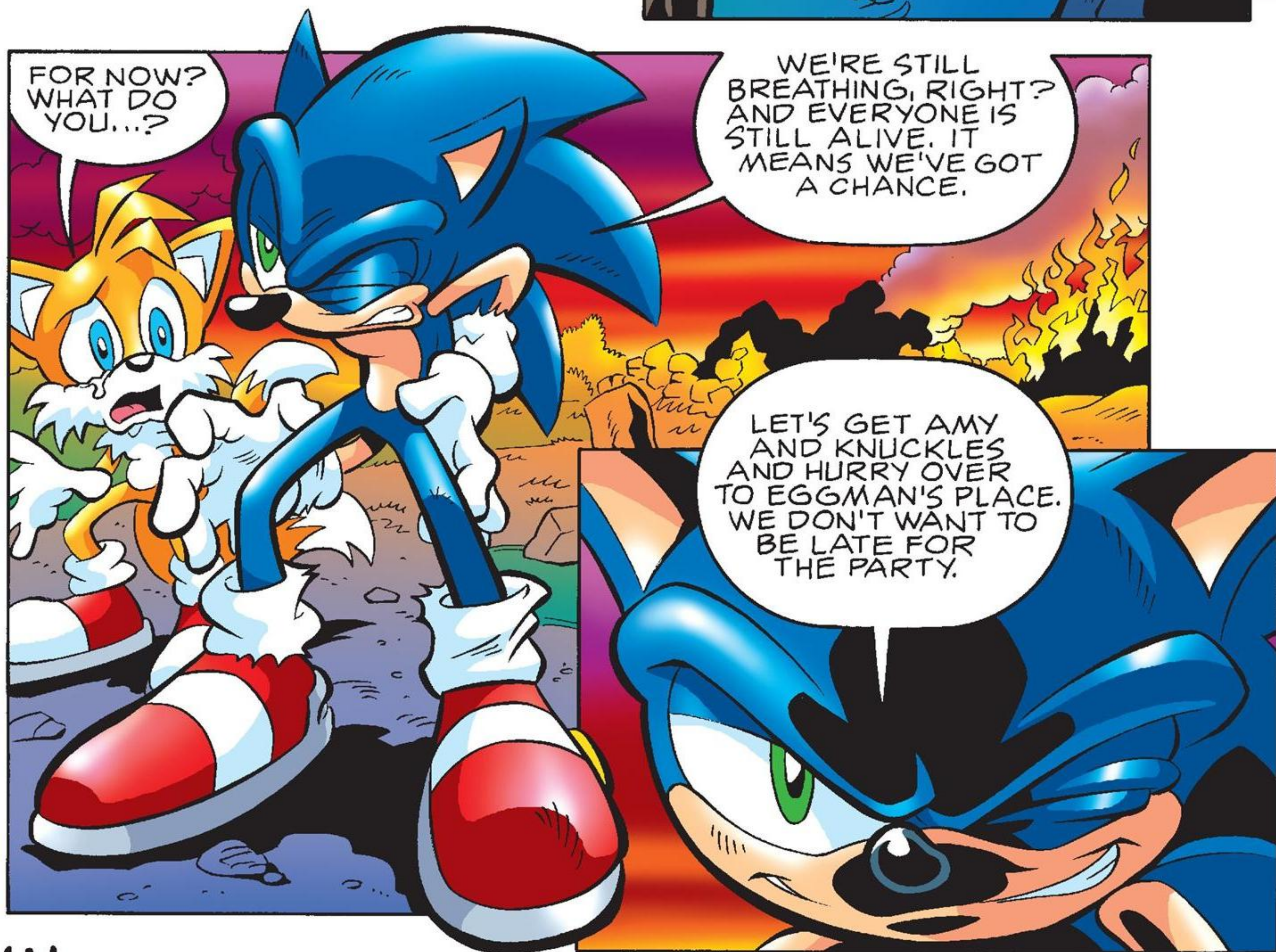
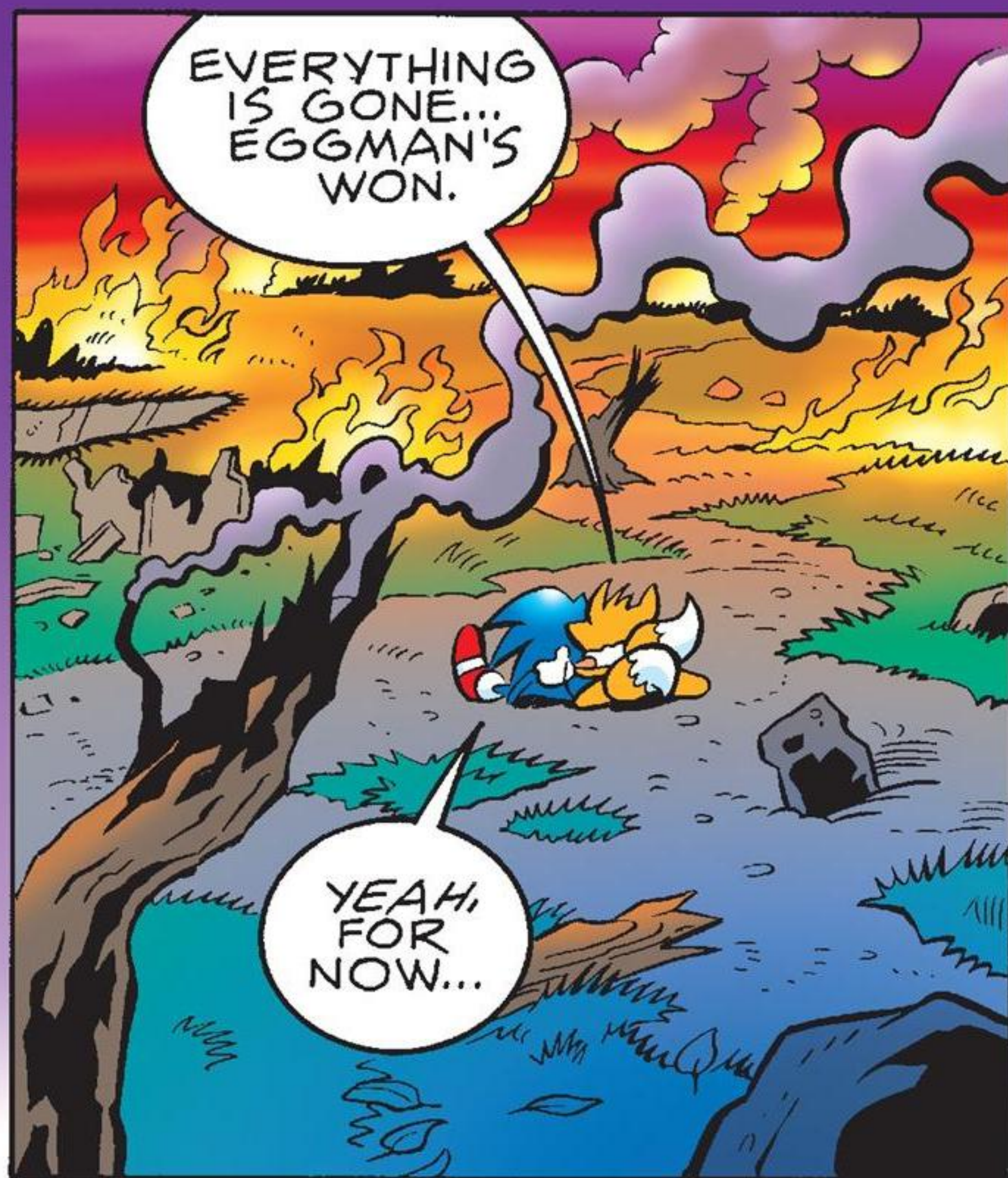


I'M GOING BACK TO NEW MEGAOPOLIS NOW. ONCE I'VE FRESHENED UP, I'M GOING TO TURN ON THE EGG GRAPES. EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER KNOWN OR CARED FOR WILL BE TURNED INTO FUEL FOR MY CITY. AND YOU'LL BE LEFT HERE-- HELPLESS.

I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU, RODENT. RUN--RUN ALL OVER THE WORLD AND TRY TO START A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER GROUP. YOU WILL FIND **NO ONE**. SO RUN--FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE--AND **NEVER** ESCAPE THE HUMILIATION OF TODAY.







WITH FOUR HEROES LEFT, CAN SONIC MANAGE A LAST-SECOND RESCUE? OR IS DR. EGGMAN RIGHT? IS IT REALLY TOO LATE? JOIN THE LAST-DITCH EFFORTS NEXT MONTH WHEN SONIC SEES IF HE CAN START "CRACKING THE EMPIRE!"